

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 6, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-7 are rejected. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3-7 and newly added claims 8 and 9 to further define the invention. No new matter has been added.

The Office Actions rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722), and rejects claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722). Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The amendments to claims 1 and 5 make the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph moot.

Claims 1 and 5 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 1 and 5 recite a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps are disposed at the first side and the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps are disposed at the second side, wherein the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps are disposed at the first side and the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps are disposed at the second side, wherein a low voltage of a first AC voltage is applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the first side and a high voltage of the first AC voltage is applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the second side, and wherein a high voltage of a second AC voltage is applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the first side and a low voltage of the second AC voltage is applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the second side".

Claims 8 and 9 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 8 and 9 recite a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein the lamps have odd-numbered N-

number (where N is a positive integer more than 2) lamps and even-numbered N-number (where N is a positive integer more than 2) lamps, wherein the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered N-number lamps are disposed at the first side and the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered N-number lamps are disposed at the second side, wherein the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered N-number lamps are disposed at the first side and the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered N-number lamps are disposed at the second side, wherein a low voltage of a first AC voltage is applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered N-number lamps at the first side and a high voltage of the first AC voltage is applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered N-number lamps at the second side, and wherein a high voltage of a second AC voltage is applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered N-number lamps at the first side and a low voltage of the second AC voltage is applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered N-number lamps at the second side".

It is noted that the Office Action cites col. 6, lines 45-47 of Duijneveldt: "In an alternative embodiment of FIG. 1, the lamps may be also be connected pairwise (and alternately) to a power source. In this case, four power sources are necessary" In other words, four power sources are necessary in Duijneveldt. On the contrary, two AC voltages, first and second AC voltages are necessary in the claimed invention. Thus, Duijneveldt fails to disclose this feature of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 and claims 2-4, 6 and 7; which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

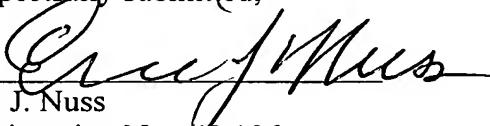
Application No.: 10/670,787
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Reply to Final Office Action dated June 6, 2008

Docket No.: 8733.953.00

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: September 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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